

existence, quotes the following paragraph from Martin's History of North Carolina:

"These resolutions [of May 20, 1775] were unanimously adopted and subscribed by the delegates. James Jack, then of Charlotte, but now residing in the State of Georgia, was engaged to be the bearer of the resolutions to the President of Congress, and directed to deliver copies of them to the delegates in Congress from North Carolina. The President returned a polite answer to the address which accompanied the resolutions, in which he highly approved of the measures adopted by the delegates of Mecklenburg, but deemed the subject of the resolutions premature to be laid before Congress. Messrs. Caswell, Hooper and Hewes forwarded a joint letter, in which they complimented the people of Mecklenburg for their zeal in the common cause."

What has become of these two letters—these very important letters, either of which would settle the dispute forever? In all the years of controversy over the Mecklenburg Declaration, no one has produced them, or copies of them. Is it not strange that documents so valuable should not have been carefully preserved? But even this is not all. Dr. Graham continues:

"At the meeting of the delegates in Charlotte, John McKnitt Alexander was chosen secretary, and thus became custodian of the records. In April, 1800, twenty-five years after this meeting, these records, including the Mecklenburg Declaration, were burned in Alexander's house. In the meantime, however, the old secretary, as he is called, had transcribed not less than five copies of the original resolutions. . . . There is abundant evidence to prove that at least seven authentic copies of these resolutions were in existence before the proceedings of the convention were burned in 1800. Of these seven transcripts, four, at the